



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: Clarification of the rules and regulations pertaining to Respiratory Therapists performing venipuncture for blood collection purposes. I am the Director of a nursing and medical continuing education school in San Diego and we currently offer a class titled "Blood Withdrawal" that is taught under specific guidelines of the Board of Registered and Vocational Nurses. A Respiratory Therapist has contacted me wishing to take this class. I would like written documentation that Respiratory Therapists can perform venipuncture and that our course is appropriate vs. a more lengthy course offered to students wishing to become Phlebotomy Technicians. The "Blood Withdrawal" course that we offer is a 6-hour course that covers the anatomy, physiology, complications, equipment, post-procedure care and safety; and requires 3 successful venipunctures.

Response: Venipuncture performed by RCPs is allowed pursuant to Section 3702(d) of the RCPA which allows "collection of specimens of blood," and Business and Professions Section 1242.6(c), which authorized a RCP to perform venipuncture.

Please be advised that the RCB suggests that a "respiratory care protocol," as specified in Section 3702 of the RCPA, be developed for this procedure.

In response to venipuncture courses provided by Med Source Education being appropriate, the RCB does not approve specific courses in venipuncture.

Reference # 1999-C-62